

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having a tangible component, the computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure separating storage of an attribute value from handling of the attribute value, the data structure comprising:

a) a model element class for implementing configured to implement the constructs described by metadata; the model element class storing an attribute value in a private member field of the model element class in the same memory block as a declared nested handler class, the nested handler class being a subclass of a generic handler class and inherits base functionality from the generic handler class, wherein the nested handler class has public access to an enclosing element's private members stored in the private member field of the model element class;

b) a meta-attribute information object for describing configured to describe attributes of the model element class;

c) a model element field handler object for accessing configured to access the attribute value stored in the model element class, wherein the model element field handler object comprises a typed model element field handler subclass defining a get value function wherein the get value function is configured to access the model element class and return the attribute value directly upon request; and

wherein the storage of the attribute value is separate from handling of the attribute value.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the model element field handler object comprises a singleton pattern.

4. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the model element field handler object sets the attribute value sorted in the model element class.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the typed model element field ~~handler~~ handler subclass defines a set value function for setting the attribute value.

8. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the data structure further comprises

d) a meta-class information object for storing data associated with the model element.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having a tangible component, the computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure separating storage of an attribute value from handling of the attribute value, the data structure comprising:

a) a container for storing meta-data in a tree structure;

b) a model element class for implementing configured to implement the constructs described by metadata; the model element class storing an attribute value in a private member field of the model element class in the same memory block as a declared nested handler class, the nested handler class being a subclass of a generic handler class and inherits base functionality

from the generic handler class, wherein the nested handler class has public access to an enclosing element's private members stored in the private member field of the model element class;

c) a meta-class information object ~~for storing~~ configured to store data associated with the model element;

d) a meta-attribute information object ~~for describing~~ configured to describe attributes of the model element class;

e) a model element field handler object ~~for accessing~~ configured to access the attribute value stored in the model element class, wherein the model element field handler object comprises a typed model element field handler subclass defining a set value function for setting the attribute value;

wherein the nested handler class is configured to directly access data in the model element class as the nested handler class has public access to the private members of the model element class; and

wherein the storage of the attribute value is separate from handling of the attribute value.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the container comprises a store acting as a root of the tree structure.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the model element field handler object comprises a singleton pattern.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the model element field handler object sets the attribute value stored in the model element class.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of ~~claim 13~~ claim 9, wherein the typed model element field handler subclass defines a get value function for accessing the attribute value.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method implemented at least in part by a computing device, the computing device accessing an attribute value within a data structure, the data structure separating storage of the attribute value from handling of the attribute value, the method comprising:

- a) storing the attribute value in a private member field of a model element class;
- b) declaring a nested handler class, the nested handler class being a subclass of a generic handler class and inherits base functionality from the generic handler class, wherein the nested handler class has public access to an enclosing element's private members stored in the private member field of the model element class;
- c) issuing a get value function to obtain the attribute value from the model element class;
- d) receiving the attribute value from the model element class;
wherein the get value function is configured to access the model element class and to return the attribute value directly upon request; and
wherein the storage of the attribute value is separate from handling of the attribute value.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method implemented at least in part by a computing device, the computing device setting an attribute value within a data structure, the data structure separating storage of the attribute value from handling of the attribute value, the method comprising:

- a) declaring a nested handler class, the nested handler class being a subclass of a generic handler class and inherits base functionality from the generic handler class, wherein the nested handler class has public access to an enclosing element's private members stored in the private member field of the model element class;
- b) issuing a set value function to set the attribute value for the model element class;
- c) setting the attribute value;
- d) storing the attribute value in the model element class;

wherein the nested handler class is configured to directly access data in the model element class as the nested handler class has public access to the private members of the model element class; and

wherein the storage of the attribute value is separate from handling of the attribute value.

19. (Cancelled)